

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 are pending, while claims 4-11 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3 are amended.

New claims 12-14 are added.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-3 and 12-14 are pending for consideration herein.

II. NON-RECEIPT OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary, item 13, indicates that the certified copy of the priority document has not been received. Enclosed concurrently is a postcard evidencing receipt by the PTO of the certified copy.

Please indicate whether the certified copy has indeed not been received.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Pages 1-2 of the Office Action reject claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redpath et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,990,887 (Hereinafter "Redpath").

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "designating at least one network;"

Redpath does not disclose or suggest designating at least one network. The chat system in Redpath may comprises numerous networks (See Redpath, Figure 1). However, one of these networks is not designated.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "obtaining one of the messages to be transmitted or received from the at least one of the designated network;"

Messages in Redpath are received on numerous networks. However, Redpath does not disclose or suggest obtaining one of the messages . . . from at least one of the designated network. As stated above, there is no designation of a network in Redpath.

Claim 1 also recites, "concentrating the obtained messages;"

There is no concentrating the obtained messages in Redpath. Redpath masks certain characters in a message (See Redpath, Figures 6A, 6B, 6C). However, the messages are not concentrated.

The features of claim 1, namely the designating . . . obtaining . . . and concentrating the obtained messages . . ., is not obvious from Redpath. Redpath discloses masking characters in a message, but makes no suggestion of the features discussed above.

Therefore, the Applicant submits that claim 1 as amended is not suggested by Redpath.

Claims 2 and 3, in view of the above remarks, are also not suggested by Redpath.

Claim 3 also recites, "message transmission cooperating means for transmitting one of the messages, when the message displayed by said message displaying means is identified for message transmission, to one of the networks in the plurality of networks to which said identified message is transmitted."

No such message transmission cooperating means is disclosed or suggested by Redpath. Further, the Office Action does not state where in Redpath a message transmission cooperating means (or comparable feature) is disclosed or suggested. While the rejection mentions transmitting a message after the enter key is pressed, this does not relate to the claimed message transmission cooperating means.

Therefore, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. NEW CLAIMS 12-14

New claims 12-14 are added which recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art, as discussed above. Therefore, the Applicant submits that new claims 12-14 are in condition for allowance.

V. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

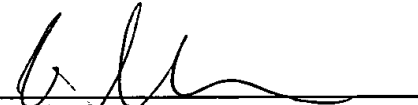
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

6-16-02

By: _____



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, as follows:

The present invention also enables the display area to be reduced, for example, in a chat system, by providing a message display concentrating and independently displaying the contents of messages transmitted and received in one or a plurality of common communication fields designated by a user. The present invention also enables issuance of opinions to the of common communication field, to which such issuance of opinions is easily made, by instructing the opinion displayed on the message display.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of displaying messages in an information exchange system for transmitting and receiving the messages through at least one network as a communication field having user terminals connected to the at least one network as communication field, comprising:

designating at least one network: ^{Fig. 3/3-13}
obtaining one of the messages to be transmitted or received from the at least one of the designated network; [and]
concentrating the obtained messages; ^{Fig. 6A, B, C} and
displaying the [obtained] concentrated messages in a time series basis independent of the messages on another of the at least one network.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) An information exchange system in which user terminals are configured for connection to a plurality of networks to transmit and receive messages through the plurality of networks, the user terminals having a message display area displaying messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of networks, comprising:

designation means designating at least one network;
message acquiring means for acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from the plurality of networks; [and]

concentrating means concentrating the acquired messages; and
message displaying means for displaying, on a time series basis, the concentrated messages [acquired] independent of the message display area of each of the plurality of networks.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) An information exchange system in which user terminals are configured for connection to a plurality of networks to transmit and receive messages through the plurality of networks, the user terminals having a message display area displaying messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of networks, comprising:

designation means designating at least one network;

message acquiring means for acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from the plurality of networks;

concentrating means concentrating the acquired messages; and

message displaying means for displaying, on a time series basis, the concentrated messages [acquired] independent of the message display area of each of the plurality of networks;

message transmission cooperating means for transmitting one of the messages, when the message displayed by said message displaying means is identified for message transmission, to one of the networks in the plurality of networks to which said identified message is transmitted.

Please ADD the following NEW claims:

12. (NEW) A method, comprising:
obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received over at least one of a designated network;
concentrating the obtained messages; and
displaying the concentrated messages in a time series basis independent of the messages.

13. (NEW) A computer readable storage controlling a computer by,

obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received over at least one of a designated network;

concentrating the obtained messages; and

displaying the concentrated messages in a time series basis independent of the messages.

14. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received over at least one of a designated network;

a processing unit concentrating the obtained messages; and

a display unit displaying the concentrated messages in a time series basis independent of the messages.

Please return this card, indicating receipt date and Serial No., if applicable, of the following

Submission of Certified Copy of Prior Foreign Application In Accordance With The
Requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.55; Priority Document (JP 10-237340)

Applicant(s): Sumiyo OKADA et al.
Title: MESSAGE DISPLAY METHOD AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM
AND STORAGE MEDIUM
Serial No.: 09/336,706
Filing Date: June 21, 1999
Docket No.: 21.1924/JRB
Due Date:



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